

Claims:

1. A method of producing a plant cell that is resistant to gall disease, the method comprising transforming a plant cell with at least one nucleic acid molecule that is homologous to at least one gene responsible for causing gall disease, the nucleic acid molecule encoding an RNA molecule selected from the group consisting of untranslatable plus-sense RNA molecules, double-stranded RNA molecules, and untranslatable double-stranded RNA molecules.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule contains at least one sequence that is homologous to at least one gene selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, and fragments thereof.

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3. A plant-transformation vector, comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 2.

4. A plant cell transformed with the plant-transformation vector of claim 3.

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5. A differentiated plant, comprising plant cells produced according to the method of claim 1.

6. A method of producing a plant exhibiting a reduced susceptibility to gall disease caused by *Agrobacterium*, comprising:

transforming at least one plant cell with at least one nucleic acid molecule that is homologous to at least one gene responsible for causing gall disease, or fragment thereof, the nucleic acid molecule encoding an RNA molecule selected from the group consisting of untranslatable plus-sense RNA molecules,

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double-stranded RNA molecules, and untranslatable double-stranded RNA molecules;

growing plants from the transformed plant cells; and

selecting a plant that shows a reduced susceptibility to gall disease

5 caused by *Agrobacterium*.

7. A plant exhibiting a reduced susceptibility to disease caused by *Agrobacterium*, produced by the method of claim 6.

10 8. A chimeric plant, comprising at least one non-transformed plant cell grafted to the plant of claim 7.

15 9. A plant produced by sexual or asexual reproduction of the plant of claim 7.

10. A seed produced by selfing or outcrossing the plant of claim 7.

20 11. A recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence having at least 60% sequence identity with a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, and fragments thereof, the recombinant nucleic acid molecule, when introduced into and expressed in a plant, reduces susceptibility of the plant to disease caused by *Agrobacterium*.

25 12. A vector, comprising the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 11.

13. A transgenic plant cell transformed with the vector of claim 12.

30 14. A transgenic plant, comprising at least one transgenic cell transformed with a recombinant nucleic acid molecule, as recited in claim 13.

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15. The transgenic plant of claim 14, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of apricot, blackberry, pear, peach, plum, blueberry, cherry, kiwi, quince, raspberry, and rose.

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16. A chimeric plant, comprising at least one transgenic plant cell as recited in claim 13.

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17. A BR construct.

18. A composition, comprising the BR construct of claim 17.

19. An RNA transcribed from the BR construct of claim 17.

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20. A vector, comprising the BR construct of claim 17.

21. A plant cell transformed with the vector of claim 20.

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22. A plant, comprising at least one plant cell according to claim 21.

23. A method of producing a plant cell that is resistant to gall disease, the method comprising

providing a BR construct;

introducing the BR construct into a plant cell; and

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assessing the level of gall resistance exhibited by the plant cell.

24. A plant, comprising at least one plant cell produced according to the method of claim 23.

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25. The transgenic plant of claim 14, wherein the plant is
chrysanthemum.

26. The transgenic plant of claim 14, wherein the plant is selected from
5 the group consisting of conifers and poplars.

27. The transgenic plant of claim 14, wherein the plant is an ornamental
shrub.

10 28. The transgenic plant of claim 14, wherein the plant is selected from
the group consisting of almond, apple, grape, and walnut.

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